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Hoddesdon Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1963

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1963.

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health of the Urban District of Hoddesdon for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

The population increase for the Urban District was the smallest for several years. The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1963 was 18,550, while that for mid-1962 was 18,370. This gives an increase of only 180 compared with 330 in 1962 and 740 in 1961. The drop is largely attributable to a lull in the Council's building programme but it is expected that next years figures will show a considerable increase.

There were 10 more live births than in 1962, the figures being 371 and 361. The total number of deaths fell from 181 in 1962 to 173 in 1963. The deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 61, exactly the same as in 1962. There were no maternal deaths.

The health of the population was good and there is little to report except for a mild epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year. The Typhoid outbreak at Harlow caused some concern and inevitably some contacts were discovered in East Herts, but none of them suffered from or developed the disease.

Events taking place in recent years have shown that the United Kingdom does not enjoy immunity from Typhoid Fever. Such immunity can only be brought about by constant vigilance and by taking active steps in which the general public can participate. With regards to such steps, I would recommend:-

1) That all people contemplating holidays abroad and especially in Southern Europe or North Africa should consult their own doctors on the advisability of having T.A.B. injections.

2) That all firms of food handlers whether large or small should send one or more responsible persons to attend courses in food hygiene and food handling. Many such courses are now available in London and at provincial centres.

The successful practice of preventive or protective medicine depends ultimately upon public participation. The medical profession, aided by many ancillary bodies, makes constant efforts in the field of health education but without co-operation by the general public such efforts are fruitless.

I wish to thank both the Public Health Committee and the Council as well as their respective Chairmen for the support and encouragement I have always received from them. My thanks are also due to all members of the Public Health Department and especially Mr. David for their constant help and co-operation. In addition I am indebted to the other Chief Officers of the Council for assistance freely and willingly given.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Gordon M. Frizelle

Gordon M. Frizelle.
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gordon M. Frizelle, T.D., M.D., D.P.H.,
Certificate in Radiological Protection

Central Office — Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts.

Telephone — Office - Hoddesdon 3061, Private - Ware 2746.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health

Peter de Bec Turtle, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Haileybury and Imperial Service College.

Telephone — Hoddesdon 2040

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Chief Public Health Inspector (also Housing Manager) — W. N. DAVID
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and other Foods
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (also Deputy Housing Manager) — W.D. SCOTT
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and other Foods
Diploma of the R.I.P.H.H.
Certificate of the Institute of Housing in Housing Management.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

Certificate of the R.S.I. — J. DANSON
Diploma Certificate of R.S.I. for Tropical Hygiene
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. — N. CUTHBERTSON
Certificate for Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Student Public Health Inspector — R.M. COOKSON

Public Health Department — Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. — Telephone: Hoddesdon 3061.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the Session 1963-4 was Councillor C.E. Jefford, the Vice Chairman was Councillor A. Godfrey.

Also on the Committee were Mrs. G. Andrews, Mrs. C. E. Birtwistle, Miss N. F. Christie, Councillors J.F. Cole, F. Hewitt, L.F.R. Jones, K.J.W. Spar and E. Wilkinson.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1963.

(TABLE 1)

(Figures for 1962 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION

Estimated mid-year population of Hoddesdon Urban District

18,550	(18,370)	
Natural increase or decrease		+ 198
Migration in or out		- 18
Total increase or decrease		+ 180

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	4,430	
Number of Inhabited Domestic Premises according to Rate Books as at 1st April 1964.		
5,802	(5,751)	
Number of houses per acre		1.30
Number of Persons per acre		4.18
Number of Persons per house		3.19

Rateable Value of District 1st April, 1963. £978,298

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate 1963/64. £3,850

VITAL STATISTICS

(TABLE 2)

(Figures for 1962 are shown in brackets)

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	164 (172	191 (182)	355 (354)
Illegitimate	9 (3)	7 (4)	16 (7)
Total Live Births	173 (175)	198 (186)	371 (361)

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	20 (19.7)
Area Comparability Factor for Births	0.90 (0.96)
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	18 (18.91)
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	4.53 (1.93)

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	5 (1)	2 (-)	7 (-)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total Still Births	5 (-)	2 (-)	7 (-)

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total Live and Still Births	18.51 (2.76)

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	169 (173)	193 (182)	362 (355)
Illegitimate	9 (3)	7 (4)	16 (7)
Total Live and Still Births	178 (176)	200 (186)	378 (362)

COMPARISON RATES

	Hoddesdon Urban District	Hertford County	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate	20.0	18.32	-
Area Comparability Factor	.9	0.94	-
Standardised Birth Rate	18.0	17.40	18.0
Still Birth Rate	4.53	15.62	17.3

Vital Statistics
Table 2 continued

INFANT DEATHS		Males	Females	Total
Infants under one week	Total:	1 (-)	1 (3)	2 (3)
Legitimate		1 (-)	1 (3)	2 (3)
Illegitimate		- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Infants under four weeks	Total:	1 (-)	1 (3)	2 (3)
Legitimate		1 (-)	1 (3)	2 (3)
Illegitimate		- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Infants under one year	Total:	4 (1)	2 (4)	6 (5)
Legitimate		4 (-)	2 (4)	6 (4)
Illegitimate		- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 total live births	Total:	16.14	(13.81)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	Total:	16.86	(11.32)
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Total:		(142.85)
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (death of infants under four weeks per 1000 total live births).		5.38	(8.31)
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (death of infants under one week per 1000 total live births).		5.38	(8.31)
P eri-Natal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths of infants under one week combined) per 1000 total live and still births		21.12.	(11.02)

MATERNAL DEATHS.		
Maternal deaths, including abortion	-	(-)
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	-	(-)

DEATHS (Total)

Deaths of all ages.	Males	83	(94)
	Females	90	(87)
	Total	173	(181)
Death Rate per 1000 population		9.32	(9.83)
Area Comparability Factor for deaths		1.16	(1.17)
Standardised Death Rate per 1000 population		10.81	(11.50)

COMPARISON RATES

	Hoddesdon Urban District	Hertford County	England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	16.14	15.05	21.0
Legitimate	16.86	14.9	
Illegitimate	-	16.61	
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	5.38	10.05	
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	5.38	8.87	
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	21.12	24.35	
Maternal Mortality Rate	-	0.37	0.3
Death Rate	9.32	9.67	
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.16	1.16	
Standardised Death Rate	10.81	10.93	12.2

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis Notified during 196

(TABLE 3)

Disease	Total	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65	A Un
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	314	11	191	102	-	3	-	
Erysipelas	8	-	-	-	-	6	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Pneumonia	8	2	-	1	-	4	1	
Dysentery	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	8	-	2	5	-	1	-	
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

(TABLE 4)

	First Quarter			Second Quarter			Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	174	56	20	25	24	2	5	6	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Perperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-	-
Dysentery	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS during 1963

(TABLE 5)

Tuberculosis New Cases only	Total all Ages	Under 5 Years	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age not known
Respiratory	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Meninges and C.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis All Cases		Total	Males		Females	
			P.	NP.	P.	NP.
Cases on Register at 1st January 1962		104	49	5	46	4
Cases added to Register	New Cases	2	2	-	-	-
	Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
	Inward Transfers	6	1	-	5	-
	Deaths	-	-	-	-	-
Cases removed from Register	Outward Transfers	3	2	-	1	-
	Patients Cured	5	2	-	3	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
Cases remaining on Register at 31.12.63.		104	48	5	47	4

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1963.

Line No.		M	F
	ALL CAUSES	83	90
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	-	1
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4	Diphtheria	-	-
5	Whooping Cough	-	-
6	Meningococcal infection	-	-
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8	Measles	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	2
10	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	2
11	" " lung, bronchus	8	1
12	Malignant " breast	-	5
13	" " uterus	-	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16	Diabetes	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	22	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
20	Other heart diseases	4	4
21	Other circulatory diseases	2	2
22	Influenza	-	-
23	Pneumonia	7	12
24	Bronchitis	6	-
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostrate	1	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34	All other accidents	1	-
35	Suicide	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
(a)	Still births	5	2
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	1
(c)	" " four weeks to one year of age	4	4
(d)	" " under one week of age	1	1

General Statistics

The estimate given by the Registrar-General for the 1963 mid-year population was 18,550. The estimate for mid 1962 was 18,370. The increase for the year was therefore 180, which is only a little more than half the previous year's increase. Building, however, was still restricted during the first part of 1963 and it is expected that the figures for 1964 will show a distinct upward trend.

The number of inhabited domestic premises rose from 5,751 to 5,802, the number of houses per acre from 1.29 to 1.30, the number of persons per acre from 4.14 to 4.18 and the number of persons per house remaining at 3.19.

Vital Statistics

There were 173 male and 198 female live births, giving a total of 371 for the year, this being 10 more than in 1962. The still births rose to 7 as compared with 1 the previous year.

The total number of deaths in infants under 1 year of age was 6, this being the same as in 1962. There were no maternal deaths.

Deaths from all causes numbered 173 as compared with 181 in 1962.

Causes of Death

Once again all forms of heart disease were the highest factor in the causes of death, accounting for 54 out of the total of 173, or 31.2 per cent. Out of these 54, 38 were due to Coronary disease of which 22 were males and 16 females. In the age group 65-74, there were 19 deaths from Coronary disease and in the age group 75 and over there were also 19.

Malignant diseases, including Leukaemia, were once more the second highest cause of death with a total of 35 or 20.2 per cent of all deaths. Of these 9 were due to malignant disease of the lung or bronchus, this being 1 less than last year's figure. Of these 9, 8 were in males and 1 was in female. 4 out of the 9 occurred in the age group 55-65, 2 in the the group 65-75. The accompanying graph shows the deaths from lung cancer since 1952.

The third highest cause of death was vascular lesions of the nervous system or strokes which accounted for 21 deaths or 12.1 per cent. 15 of these occurred in the age group 75 and over.

The fourth highest cause of death was pneumonia with 19 deaths or 10.9 per cent. The majority of these deaths occurred as a terminal event at the age of 75 or over.

There were 3 fatal accidents and 3 suicides. Two of the accidents were motor accidents while the third was due to a ruptured spleen brought about by a fall. The causes of death in the suicides were drowning, barbiturate poisoning and gunshot wounds.

The causes of death of infants under one year of age were:-

Under one week	Congenital malformation of Heart	1
	Atelectosis of Lungs	1
From one week to four weeks		0
From four weeks to one year		
	Broncho Pneumonia	2
	Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula	1

Repeated search of my records fails to reveal the sixth infant death reported by the Registrar-General.

Deaths over the age of 70 set out in ten year age groups were as follows -

70-79	80-89	90-99
68	40	9

We thus find that 117 out of the total number of 173 deaths or 68.8 per cent occurred over the age of 70. This figure can be compared with the 71.27 per cent of last year. The oldest inhabitant died at the age of 95.

Infectious Diseases

The usual annual outbreak of Measles occurred in the early months of 1963 but did not assume any serious proportions.

The occurrence of Typhoid Fever in Harlow had inevitable repercussions in the adjoining districts of East Hertfordshire where various contacts were reported. All investigations, however, showed them to be unaffected by the disease.

Apart from these two incidents, nothing of any consequence was noted in the field of infectious disease.

Tuberculosis

At the end of 1962 there were 104 cases of tuberculosis on the Register. The pulmonary cases numbered 95 and the non-pulmonary 9.

At the end of 1963 there still were 104 cases on the Register. 2 new cases in the District and 6 inward transfers were balanced by 5 patients pronounced cured and 3 outward transfers. Of the 104 on the Register at 31st December 1963, the pulmonary cases were still 95 and the non pulmonary 9.

Food Hygiene.

During 1963 it was decided to offer all food handling Establishments in the Urban District copies of the following notices to display in their premises.

A number of Establishments were pleased to accept this offer.

EAST HERTS. COMBINED DISTRICTS

DOGS

In the interests of food hygiene it is requested that dogs should not be brought into these premises.

GORDON M. FRIZELLE,
Medical Officer of Health

This notice is issued by the Public Health Committees of the Combined Districts.

EAST HERTS. COMBINED DISTRICTS

NO SMOKING

The staff of this shop are prohibited by law from smoking whilst handling open food.

In the interests of food hygiene, customers are requested to refrain from smoking.

GORDON M. FRIZELLE,
Medical Officer of Health

This notice is issued by the Public Health Committees of the Combined Districts.

National Assistance Act 1948 - 51

I am happy to report that for a number of years now no action has been required under Section 47 of these Acts.

Workroom for the Elderly

As was forecast in last year's report, the workshop re-opened during the spring of 1963. The financial situation was on a satisfactory basis, sufficient work was promised by local firms and 21 workers were on the books. By May the average attendance at each session was 17. A Coach trip to Brighton in July was enjoyed by all the workers and a stall at the Old People's Fete realized over £23. A very successful Christmas Party was held at the workshop on 19th December. Much of the success of the revivified workrooms has been due to the energy and initiative of the organiser, Mrs. Harnett.

Home Safety Committee

A combined Home Safety and Road Safety Exhibition was held at the Esdale Hall from 24 - 27th July. Many school children visited the Exhibition and films on safety were also shown at schools which could not send pupils to the Exhibition.

A demonstration of life saving and artificial respiration was given at the Spinning Wheel Swimming Pool on 25th July and was well attended.

Preliminary plans were discussed for holding a large scale Public Health and Home Safety Exhibition during 1964.

Health Education is a subject which is at the present time, receiving tremendous attention at all levels from the Ministry of Health downwards and has been discussed in the press and on television. The Hoddesdon Home Safety Committee is one of the most active and vigorous in the County and deserves great credit for its many activities.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies.

In March of 1963 the Council approved the recommendation of the Public Health Committee that favourable consideration be given to the fluoridation of water supplies.

Following this decision, a petition, signed by 234 residents of Broxbourne, was received objecting to "The pointless addition of sodium fluoride to our water supply". The foregoing recommendation was therefore reversed and it was decided to await the decision of the Hertfordshire County Council on the matter. This decision is held up pending the result of an action in the High Court against the Watford Borough Council.

Radioactive Waste.

The depositing of radioactive animal carcasses of low activity at Lodge Hollow, Cock Lane, ceased during 1963.

Building

229 New houses were built by private enterprise, while 13 houses were constructed by the Council.

Reports

During the year special reports were made to the Public Health on the effects of fluoride on the body intake, the radioactive substances Act 1960, the R.S.H. Congress, Eastbourne, Food Hygiene, International Certificat of Vaccination against Smallpox, the Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963, and The R.I.P.H. & H. Conference, Harrogate.

Publication

Radiation Hazard and the M.O.H. The Medical Officer, Apri

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Hoddesdon,
Herts.
September, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my report for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

May I express my sincere thanks to the Council and especially to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support for the work of the Department during the year.

Also to thank Dr. Frizelle for his enthusiastic co-operation at all times, and the other Chief Officers of the Council for their ready assistance during the year. I should like to pay tribute to the work of my own staff, for their sustained loyalty and diligence. Without them, this report would not be possible.

W. N. DAVID
Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Mains Supply

This district is within the statutory area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and apart from a small number of properties, details of which are given below, the area is supplied from the Board's mains. All dwellings have an individual supply and there are no standpipes in operation.

No complaints regarding the inadequacy or poor pressure of the public supply were received during the year.

Private Supplies

a. Domestic Premises

There are approximately 25 dwellings, 2 lock keepers' houses, and a holiday caravan camp who have their own private water supplies.

Sixteen samples from thirteen premises were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. Four were reported on as being of an unsatisfactory standard. One of these was improved by fitting a filter to the supply, the premises served by another unsatisfactory supply was made the subject of a demolition order, and in the other two cases the users were advised to boil their water before use.

b. Industrial Properties

Nine factories have their own water supplies, three of the factories receiving their supplies from one source, as mentioned in last year's report. Six samples were taken from five factories and all were found to be of a satisfactory standard.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

All the sewage from the Council's sewers is pumped through a series of pumping stations to the Middle Lee Regional Drainage Scheme's Rye Mead Works, which are situated just outside this Council's boundary and within the Ware Rural District Council's Area.

In addition to many small domestic sewage treatment plants, it is estimated that there are over 100 cesspools and septic tanks in the district. These are mainly situated in the less developed and outlying parts of the area, where no sewers are available.

The Council undertake the emptying of cesspools at dwelling houses in un-sewered areas at six-monthly intervals on request.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Three refuse collection vehicles are employed on the refuse collection service, and a weekly collection extends to all parts of the district.

Trade refuse is collected by special arrangement with the Surveyor, who administers the refuse collection service.

Refuse disposal by the controlled tipping method is carried out at Lodge Hollow, Cock Lane, Hoddesdon, a gravel pit privately owned and operated. The Borough of St. Pancras and Cheshunt U.D.C. also tip household refuse on this tip.

Another tip at Church Lane, Wormley, is owned and operated by the Borough of Edmonton. Destructor screenings, ashes and clinker are deposited here.

All household and other putrescible refuse imported into the district is deposited in the above-mentioned tips under consent issued under the appropriate section of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. These consents impose conditions to ensure that no nuisance or danger to health is caused.

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - 1961

a. Clearance Areas

The following properties were demolished during the year.

Hoddesdon Clearance Area No. 24 (167 - 181 (odd) Lord Street) 8 houses.

" " " 25 (85 - 93 (odd) Amwell Street) 5 houses.

b. Individual Unfit Dwellings

193, Lord Street, Hoddesdon.

This property was inspected and found to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. As the house could not be demolished without endangering the adjoining property the Council made a Closing Order under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957 and the tenant was rehoused.

1, 2 & 3, Heards Cottages, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon.

These properties were inspected and found to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. Demolition orders were made in respect of the three dwellings and, following vacation, the buildings were demolished.

b. (Cont'd.)

Silver Mead, Essex Road, Hoddesdon.

Following the making of a Demolition Order during 1962 this property was demolished during the year.

61 & 63, Amwell Street, Hoddesdon.

These premises which had been vacant for some time were in very bad condition and were demolished following informal representations to the owner.

Cole's Riverside Nursery, Wharf Road, Wormley.

Inspection revealed that a family of Husband, Wife and two children were living in a former office and packing shed which had been adapted as a dwelling. This was found to fall short of the minimum standard required under the Housing Act, 1957 as being unfit for human habitation. Accordingly representation was made to the Council for a Demolition Order to be made early in 1964.

c. Redevelopment - Central Area, Hoddesdon.

The Council have had discussions with a Group of Developers for the redevelopment of a triangular area in the vicinity of the Clock Tower in Hoddesdon, and extending down Burford and Amwell Streets.

The site includes vacant plots where houses had already been demolished under Demolition or Clearance Orders, and the area also contains the following additional properties which were scheduled in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme:-

2 - 12 (even) Burford Street - 6 houses

2 - 8 (even) Amwell Street - 4 houses

10 & 12, Amwell Street - 2 houses. These premises were inspected and reported on for action under the Housing Acts and in 1960 the owners gave an undertaking that the houses would not be used for human habitation.

1, 3 & 5, Plumes Yard - 3 houses. These premises form part of Hoddesdon No. 12 Clearance Order, which was confirmed in 1958 and which are at present used for storage purposes.

ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) ACT, 1946

5C, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon.

Reference was made last year to the fact that a public local enquiry was held on 18th December 1962 in respect of the above vacant bungalow. A compulsory Purchase Order was made, and confirmed by the Minister without modification on 24th June 1963.

The dwelling had been the cause of concern to the Council for some time due to its neglected condition following its de-requisitioning on 31st August 1952, and protracted correspondence with the owner failed to secure the re-occupation of the premises.

The Council commenced the work of reconditioning by this Department's direct labour on 16th December 1963.

HOUSING PROGRESS

	During 1963	Total since end of the war
By Private Enterprise		
New dwellings erected	229	1499
War destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	5
Repairs of war damaged houses	-	-
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	25
By Local Authority		
New dwellings erected	13	859
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	8
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	38
By other Authorities (including Police cottages, etc.)		
New dwellings erected	-	10

Properties controlled by the Local Authority at 31st December, 1963

Council houses	1219
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	38
Sundry other properties	10
Shops	4

Sale of Council houses

No Council houses were sold during the year.

Re-housing

7 persons were rehoused in Council accommodation as a result of slum clearance procedure.

Municipal Housing

13 new units of accommodation only were handed over for occupation during the year, but with three other schemes in progress a much higher number should become available for letting in 1964.

Beech Walk, Hoddesdon (12 flats and Warden's House)

The scheme for the provision of twelve flats for elderly people, a Warden's house and Common room was completed in the early part of 1963.

Westlea Road, Wormley. (8 flats).

Work started in September on these one-bedroomed flats.

Rear of St. Augustine's Drive, Broxbourne
(14 bungalows and 12 flats)

The provision of one-bedroomed bungalows and flats commenced December 1st 1963.

Westfield Road East, Hoddesdon.
(48 houses and 12 one-bedroomed flats)

Work commenced on this site in February 1963, and should be completed in 1964.

Seven temporary prefabricated bungalows will have to be removed to permit the site to be fully developed.

HOUSING ACT 1957

HOUSES OCCUPIED BY MORE THAN ONE FAMILY OR LET IN LODGINGS - ITALIAN IMMIGRATION.

As reported in previous years a considerable amount of time and effort is expended by the District Inspectors, usually outside normal office hours, in an endeavour to prevent or abate over-occupation of houses occupied by aliens. During the year some 214 inspections and 172 visits and re-inspections were made of houses where multiple occupation was thought to exist.

Where a house is found to be overcrowded the person in charge of the premises is notified of the maximum number of persons which can be accommodated based on the Council's standard. He is then informed, both verbally and in writing, to reduce the number of persons sleeping in the house to comply with this standard.

Where this informal action fails, Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1957 are served and as a result, in the majority of cases, over occupation is abated. The abatement of overcrowding is often found to have been of a temporary character owing to the frequent changes of lodgings made by single persons and this entails follow up visits, inspections and interviews.

Legal proceedings were taken under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1957 in four cases for failure to comply with the Statutory Notices, to abate overoccupation, three of the persons responsible being fined £10 each and the other £15.

There is a Scheme in operation for the inspection of accommodation for future occupation by Italians coming into this country. Five such applications were made to bring the wife and family into this country. In two of these the accommodation was found to be satisfactory and the application approved and in three cases, because the accommodation was not satisfactory, it was refused. Similarly, 30 notifications were received of accommodation which it was proposed to use for Italian workers as specified by the applicants' future employer. Sixteen of these were found to be satisfactory and certificates approved, and 14 where they were unsatisfactory and accordingly certificates were refused.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) Act, 1958

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Local Authority Dwellings

The total number of dwellings improved to 31st December, 1963 was 280.

Private Dwellings

21 applications for improvement grants received approval throughout the year, one relating to a discretionary improvement grant and 20 to standard improvement grants.

The tables below indicate the progress made since 1955.

	DISCRETIONARY			STANDARD		
Year	Applications approved	Completed	Paid	Applications approved	Completed	Pa
1955	12	3	£515	-	-	-
1956	9	11	£1701	-	-	-
1957	24	10	£2870	-	-	-
1958	4	4	£2794	-	-	-
1959	9	19	£1237	7	1	£1
1960	13	10	£1523	23	13	£11
1961	4	9	£416	18	14	£16
1962	3	2	£1571	15	14	£20
1963	1	-	£181	20	10	£11
Total	79	68	£12,808	83	52	£6,1

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications were received during the year for the issue or the cancellation of certificates of disrepair.

Swimming Pool

The open air swimming pool is owned by the Council and administered by the Surveyor. It was open to the public during the period 1st May - 30th September. There were 51,523 admissions during this period. By arrangement with the local Education Authorities the pool was used extensively throghout the season by children from the local schools and other organised parties.

Water is obtained from the public mains and treated by pressure filtration and "break point" chlorination and the water heated as required. The flow is regulated so that the water content of the pool passes through the purification apparatus once every five hours.

During the season daily residual chlorine tests are made and weekly samples of water from the pool are submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All tests showed the water to be of a satisfactory standard.

Insects.

51 miscellaneous complaints regarding insects were dealt with during the year.

Section 89 - Sanitary Accommodation in Licensed Premises.

Prolonged negotiations have resulted in improvements to sanitary accommodation at several of the licensed premises in the district. Major works of modernisation were completed at the Boars Head Public House, Hoddesdon, and the Queens Head Public House, Wormley, and improvements were also made at the Old Highway Tavern, Hoddesdon.

In last years Report, mention was made of the Bull Public House High Road, Broxbourne, and the delay experienced in securing sanitary improvements. It was necessary to serve a Statutory Notice in order to obtain satisfactory improvements pending rebuilding. The Statutory Notice expired and a summons was issued against the owners of the premises, for hearing on 1st January 1964. Work was started on the day the summons was issued, 5th December 1963, and was substantially completed by 18th December 1963.

The summons was accordingly withdrawn on the 23rd December 1963 and all the work including decorations was complete on the 3rd January, 1964.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY HEALTH & WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT 1956

One further horticultural nursery business in Wormley was discontinued and was sold for the building of houses.

Inspections of sanitary arrangements at existing Agricultural Premises in the District have continued in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

After representation one other nursery is proposing to substitute water closets for the existing primitive sanitary accommodation.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

It was reported last year that "Go-Kart" racing taking place in a Stadium just outside the Council's boundary and within the Ware Rural District Council's area, had been the cause of complaints about noise.

Three further complaints were received in the early part of the year, but it is thought that an improvement in the situation has now been achieved by the Promoters insistence that all machines must be fitted with approved silencers, which, if required, can be purchased on the track.

INSPECTIONS ETC.

The following visits for inspection or re-inspection under various Acts have been made:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Dwelling houses	378
Drains and sewers	295
Closets	31
Dustbins	25
Inns, Restaurants, Cinemas, etc.	28
Water Supplies	337
Dust and effluvia	7
Verminous premises	2
Infectious diseases	12
Food poisoning	-
Swimming bath	18
Animals kept	-
Offensive accumulations	22
Ditches and water courses	7

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

Refuse tips	14
Music and Dancing licensing	2
Hairdressers	5

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960 42

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Industrial premises	34
Domestic premises	23
Miscellaneous	8

HOUSING ACTS

Individual unfit	62
Overcrowding	386
Other	22
Improvement Grants	342
Rent Act	2
Clearance	53
Means of escape in case of fire	8

Inspections etc. (Cont'd)..

FACTORIES ACT

Non power .. ..
Power .. ..
Building sites .. ..
Work places .. ..

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956 .. ..

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 .. ..

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 ... .

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Hygiene Regulations/Byelaws - shops .. ..
" " " - stalls and vehicles .. ..
" " " - personal hygiene .. ..
Ice cream premises .. ..
Food inspection - meat .. ..
" " other .. ..
Milk distribution .. ..
Sampling .. ..
Water samples .. ..

SHOPS ACT, 1960 .. ..

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951 .. ..

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodents - domestic premises .. ..
" - business premises .. ..
" - refuse tips .. ..
Insects .. ..

MISCELLANEOUS .. ..

Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. .. ..

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

(a) Section 3.

Under Section 3 of the Act notification of the installation of new industrial furnaces in buildings or boilers must be given to the Local Authority. The purpose of this section is to ensure that the Local Authority is aware of the nature of new installations and by arranging for the submission of plans and specifications to ensure that so far as is practicable the furnaces are capable of being operated without emitting smoke.

During the year 26 applications were received for prior approval of new furnaces, 14 being in connection with oil fired furnaces and 12 for gas, and all were approved.

(b) Section 10.

Section 10 of the Act requires that where plans for the erection or extension of an industrial building are deposited with a Local Authority and the plans show that it is proposed to erect a chimney in connection with the building, the Local Authority must reject the plans unless they are satisfied that the height of the chimney will be sufficient to prevent, so far as is practicable, the smoke, grit, dust or gases from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance. During the year plans were submitted showing that 10 new chimneys were to be erected and after investigation and consultation with the Architects, Heating Engineers or Builders, and where necessary obtaining agreement to increase the chimney heights, approval was given to the plans.

(c) Measurement of Air Pollution.

Daily measurements of the amounts of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere continued during the year by means of a volumetric instrument situated at the Council Offices, and an additional instrument was installed at Rye Park Junior School, observations being commenced in late July.

As will be seen from the graphs, pollution by both smoke and sulphur dioxide is noticeably heavier in the Rye Park area.

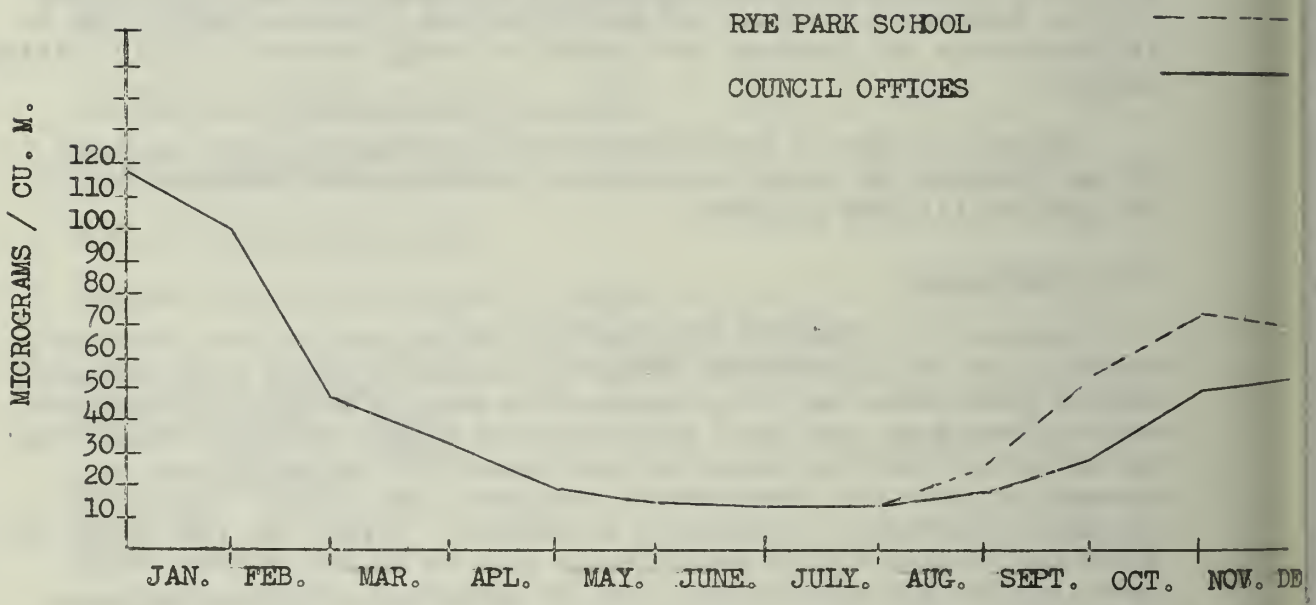
(d) Smoke Control Areas.

As has been pointed in previous reports, domestic chimneys are the source of more than half the smoke in the atmosphere, and the graphs illustrate how the pollution can vary from place to place even in a small district. In my opinion an area such as Rye Park could benefit considerably by the establishment of smoke control areas.

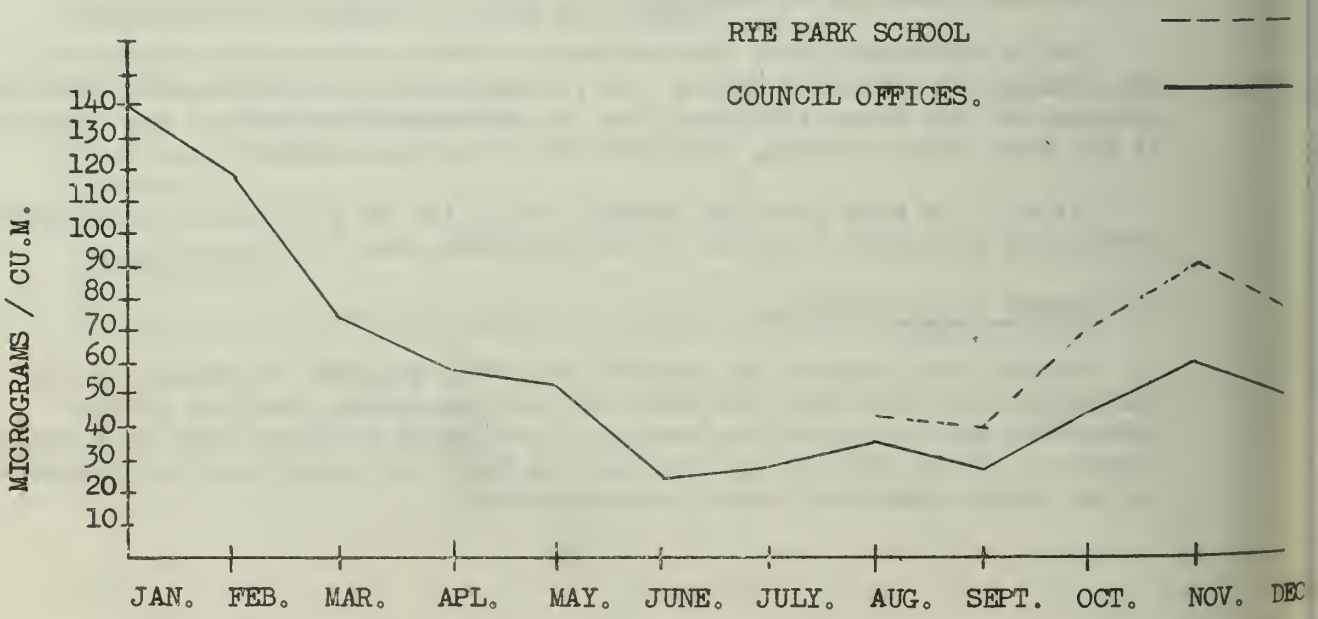
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

MEASUREMENT OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS.

SMOKE



SULPHUR DIOXIDE



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Routine inspections were made of all premises at which food is manufactured, stored or sold in the area during the year. These are listed below. Where contraventions were discovered informal action achieved satisfactory results.

All proposals for new premises where food is to be sold, stored or manufactured, and alterations to erecting premises, are carefully examined in an attempt to secure that such premises will conform to the Food Hygiene Regulations and invariably discussions and consultations with Architects, Surveyors and Builders achieves this end.

Bakehouses	6
Bakers and Confectioners	7
Restaurants and tea rooms	12
Public Houses	23
Sweets and confectionery	29
Grocers	42
Greengrocers	19
Butchers	14
Fishmongers (inc. fried fish shops)	6
Factory canteens	16
School canteens	13
Market stalls	9
Miscellaneous food premises	22

Section 16

18 premises are registered for the preparation and storage of sausages, or potted, pickled or preserved food and there are 65 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

MARKET.

Regular inspections were made of the stalls at the weekly market at which there are normally ten stalls selling foodstuffs, to ensure that the Council's "Clean Food" byelaws were complied with and to ensure that there was no contamination of food-stuffs.

Unsound Food.

Food surrendered as being unfit for human consumption and for destruction or disposed is listed below.

CANNED FOODSTUFFS.

Tomatoes	113 lbs. 12 oz.
Chopped Pork	12 lbs. -
Jellied Veal	6 lbs. -
Luncheon Meat	4 lbs. 7 oz.
Corned beef	2 lbs. 4 oz.
Ham	34 lbs. 11 oz.
Liquid Egg	14 lbs. -

MEAT

Frozen kidneys	97 lbs. -
Pork	10 lbs. 14 oz.
Beef } Contaminated by refrigerant gas	378 lbs. -
Other } Contaminated by refrigerant gas	769 lbs. -

OTHER FOODS

Potatoes	560 lbs.
Frozen Food	301 lbs. 7½ oz.
Oats	1 lb. 8 oz.
Dates	43 lbs. -.
Bread & Confectionery Damaged by fire	1,342 lbs. 9½ oz.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT 1958.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Private.

One hundred and twenty nine complaints of infestation were received and the premises inspected and free advice given to the occupiers. A further 64 private properties were found on inspection to be infested.

Business Premises.

Contracts for the treatment of two refuse tips and one business premises were in operation during the year. Forty-three premises were treated and charged for on a time and materials basis.

Agricultural Properties.

Ten notifications were received and 20 surveys made. Infestations were found in 19 cases. Again a charge was rendered on a time and materials basis.

Sewers.

Again the yearly 10% test baiting of the Councils three sewerage systems was carried out during the year. Infestation was found only to be light and the affected neighbouring man-holes, 32 in all, were treated with fluoracetamide (1081) which gave very satisfactory results.

Summary.

Details of all inspections carried out and infestations treated during the year are given on the table over-leaf.

Prevention of Damage By Pests Act, 1949 (Cont'd.)

		TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agri-cultural	Total
1. No. of Properties inspected as a result of:-					
a) Notification	-	129	35	9	173
b) Survey under the Act	4	51	14	20	89
c) Otherwise	1	43	1	1	46
	5	223	50	30	308
2. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections.	13	478	102	40	633
3. No. of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	5	169	33	14	221
b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	24	10	5	39
	5	193	43	19	260
4. No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	5	193	43	19	260

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

No applications for licences for caravans for permanent habitation were received during the year.

One site licence was issued for an additional caravan in the Wharf Road, Wormley, area, with a condition limiting the use for holiday and pleasure purposes only.

Two licences expired at the end of the year and the caravans have been removed from these sites. 24 licences are still in force, 21 being for caravans used for recreational purposes only, 2 for permanent human habitation and one for summer use.

Dobbs Weir Riverside Holidays Ltd., Essex Road, Hoddesdon.

This site, which is licensed for 100 caravans with a condition that the caravans may only be occupied between the Sunday before Easter and 30th October, continued to operate satisfactorily.

Caravan Site, Wharf Road, Wormley

Reference was made to a caravan occupied by a family consisting of man, woman and children, in last year's Annual Report. The family again took up occupation this summer. It is understood that the male occupier came out of prison shortly afterwards, but after a brief period was back in prison again.

In the circumstances, difficulties were experienced in taking legal proceedings but the matter is being followed up.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One pet shop is licensed under the provisions of the above Act and continues to operate satisfactorily.

GAME ACT, 1831

Four persons were licensed to deal in game.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupie prosecu
(i) Factories in which S.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which S.7 is enforced by the L.A.	112	82	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which S.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	6	15	-	-
TOTAL -	121	109	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	2	2	-	2	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Paper bags	29	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing Apparel	32	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	8	-	-	-	-	-
Light Engineering	30	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	99	-	-	-	-	-

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 & 1934.

This Department is responsible for administering the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts. Petroleum spirit may not be stored in any quantity without a licence. Safety measures are taken to prevent danger to life, limb, and property.

There are 37 installations and testing of pumps and tanks has been carried out according to the Regulations.

During the year it became necessary to institute legal proceedings against the firm of Messrs. Gates (Precast) Ltd., Essex Road, Hoddesdon, for storing petrol without a licence and they were fined £15. The firm were also summoned for failure to display proper notices and to provide fire extinguishers, for which fines amounting to £3 with £5 5s. 0d. costs were imposed in each case.

In the early part of the year, numerous complaints were received from occupiers of premises in the High Street of the smell of petrol. Inspection of the drains and sewers in the neighbourhood were made, as well as those premises used for the storage of petrol and light fuel oil. The nearest petrol installation was thoroughly tested and only a very minor leak found. This was not thought to be the cause of the trouble, but a possible explanat might be the unauthorised and dangerous practice of petroleum spirit being used for some cleaning purposes.